

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/CA2004/001851

Box No. II

Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of the first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons :

1. Claim Nos. : 1-22
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely :
Methods for the treatment of the human body (PCT Rule 39.1(iv)). Although claims 1-22 are formulated in terms of steps for the treatment of the human body, a search has been carried out based on the use of the claimed system.
2. Claim Nos. :
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically :
3. Claims Nos. :
because they are dependant claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III

Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows :

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claim Nos. :
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claim Nos. :

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
 No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC⁷ A61M 16/00, A61H 31/02

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC⁷ A61M 16/00, A61H 31/02, A61H 31/00 and a combination of keywords (positive and negative and pressure and vacuum and (thorax or sternum or abdomen or ribs or cage)
US Classes 601/011 or 601/044

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base, and, where practicable, search terms used)

Delphion, Esp@cenet, USPTO, Canadian Patent Database and Internet and a combination of keywords (positive and negative and pressure and vacuum and (thorax or sternum or abdomen or ribs or cage)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 4 481 938 (Lindley) 13 Nov. 1984 (13.11.1984), column 4, line 39 to column 6, line 29, column 7, lines 51 to 68 and figures 1,2 and 5	1-10, 12, 14-16, 18, 19, 23-26, 28-38, 40, 42-44, 46, 47
Y, P	US 6 779 523 (Starmed S.p.A.) 24 Aug. 2004 (24.08.2004), column 2, line 11 to column 3, line 10 and figure 1	1-3, 12, 23, 24, 30-32, 40
Y	WO 99/43374 (Université de Montréal) 2 Sep. 1999 (02.09.1999), page 4, line 8 to page 8, line 17, page 11, lines 24 to 27 and figure 1	4, 5, 25, 28, 33, 34
Y	WO 01/08735 (Université de Montréal) 8 Feb. 2001 (08.02.2001), page 4, line 6 to page 7, line 25 and figure 1	6-10, 26, 35-38
Y	US 5 871 008 (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) 16 Feb. 1999 (16.02.1999), Abstract, column 4, lines 18 to 35, column 13, line 10 to column 14, line 15, column 15, line 65 to column 16, line 31 and figures 1 to 3 and 27 to 29	14-16, 18, 19, 29, 42-44, 46, 47
A	US 2 822 803 (T. C. Huxley III et al.) 11 Feb. 1958 (11.02.1958), the whole document	1-3, 12, 23, 24, 30-32, 40

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :	
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international-type search 8 December 2004 (08-12-2004)	Date of mailing of the international-type search report 02 March 2005 (02-03-2005)
Name and mailing address of the ISA/CA Commissioner of Patents Canadian Patent Office - PCT Ottawa/Gatineau K1A 0C9 Facsimile No. 1-819-953-9358	Authorized officer Eric Lafontaine (819) 956-9965

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.
PCT/CA2004/001851

Patent Document Cited In Search Report	Publication Date	Patent Family Member(s)	Publication Date
US4481938	13-11-1984	AT43787T T DE3478572D D1 EP0172287 A1 US4481938 A	15-06-1989 13-07-1989 26-02-1986 13-11-1984
US6779523	24-08-2004	CA2433118 A1 EP1380275 A1 ITMI20021502 A1 JP2004041727 A US6779523 B2	09-01-2004 14-01-2004 09-01-2004 12-02-2004 24-08-2004
WO9943374	02-09-1999	AT281863T T AU2706899 A CA2230857 A1 CA2320816 A1 EP1056499 A1 JP2002504405T T US6588423 B1 WO9943374 A1	15-11-2004 15-09-1999 27-08-1999 02-09-1999 06-12-2000 12-02-2002 08-07-2003 02-09-1999
WO0108735	08-02-2001	AU6420100 A CA2379671 A1 EP1204439 A1 JP2003505213T T WO0108735 A1	19-02-2001 08-02-2001 15-05-2002 12-02-2003 08-02-2001
US5871008	16-02-1999	US5871008 A	16-02-1999
US2822803	11-02-1958	US2822803 A	11-02-1958